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Receiver: Examiner Kim T. Nguyen - Group Art Unit 3713

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Sender: Justin A. White

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Re: 10/072,277

Pages Including Cover Sheet(s): 4

MESSAGE:

Please see attached response.

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NO. 920

P. 2

#6
K. C. Cole
2/5/04

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: NELSON

Application No.: 10/072,277

Filed: February 6, 2002

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
MONITORING OR CONTROLLING
A GAMING MACHINE BASED ON
GAMING MACHINE LOCATION

Attorney Docket No.: IGT1P124
(formerly IGTECH.0044P)

Examiner: Kim T. Nguyen

Group: 3713

Confirmation No.: 2050

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted
by facsimile to fax number 703-872-9306 to the U.S. Patent
and Trademark Office on January 23, 2004.

Signed: _____

Laura M. Dear

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is in response to the Restriction Requirement dated December 23, 2003,
the period of response for which ends on January 23, 2004. The five different Groups are set
forth in the Restriction Requirement as follows:

- I: Claims 1-5, drawn to grouping gaming machines based on a distance parameter with respect to a reference gaming machine, classified in class 463, subclass 42.
- II: Claims 6-8, drawn to generating an alert signal if the location of a gaming machine does not comply with gaming regulations, classified in class 463, subclass 40.
- III: Claims 9-16, drawn to controlling gaming machines that are within a distance from a winning machine, classified in class 463, subclass 42.
- IV: Claims 17-20, drawn to setting configuration of a gaming machine based on the location of the gaming machine, classified in class 345, subclass 735.
- V: Claims 21-24, drawn to associating a gaming machine with a linked progressive, classified in class 463, subclass 42.

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Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Group III (*i.e.*, claims 9-16).

In so traversing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration or modification of the pending Restriction Requirement. Applicants initially submit that all claims from all Groups are directed toward the physical locations of individual gaming machines and various consequences thereof, and that a comprehensive search and examination based on this defining characteristic would not be unduly burdensome given the state of the art within the gaming industry. Accordingly, examination of all Groups should be possible.

In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that Groups I and V should also be examined along with Group III at the very least. Despite the characterization above, claim 1 recites "A method for synchronizing an aspect of operation for two or more gaming machines comprising . . ." In grouping claims for search and examination purposes, "synchronizing" is sufficiently similar in nature to "controlling." In addition, a "reference gaming machine" can be a "winning machine." Claims 2-5 all depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Group I is directed toward controlling (*e.g.*, synchronizing) gaming machines based on a distance from a reference machine (which can be a winning machine). The differences between Group I and Group III are insufficient then to merit a restriction between these groups.

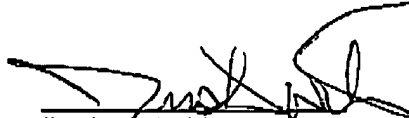
This is especially true given that both Group I and Group III have been classified within the same class *and* subclass (*i.e.*, class 463, subclass 42). Accordingly, there should be no extra burden upon the Examiner to search and examine both of these groups together. Group V is similarly classified within the same class *and* subclass as both of Groups I and III. Given this fact, along with various other similarities between the claims of Group V and the claims of Groups I and III, there should be no extra burden upon the Examiner to search and examine Group V along with Groups III and I. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request a modification of the pending Restriction Requirement to at least permit the examination of Groups III, I and V together in the first instance.

It is believed that no fees are due at this time. If any fees are due in connection with this Response to Restriction Requirement or for this application in general, however, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-0388 (Order

No. IGT1P124). If there are any questions or issues remaining, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

Date: January 23, 2004



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